relating to all aspects of manufacturing and marketing of steel like production, consumption, marketing, sales, imports and exports, infrastructural facilities like rail transport, ports, coal, power, and trade information about the international market; service the information needs of the industry and the Govt. through continuous interaction with the various steel consumers/consumer associations and steel producers/associations and traders; act as the secretariat for the management of Steel Development Fund; receive and evaluate the annual tariff proposals from the industry by interacting with them and make suitable recommendations in this regard to Ministry of Steel, etc. The Committee has also made recommendations about the redefining of role and redesigning of activities of the Economic Research Unit of the JPC with a view to utilise the available human resource and expertise.

The recommendations made by the Committee are under consideration of the Government.

Running Cost of Diesel and Electric Engines

*271. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the comparative per kilometre running cost of a diesel rail engine and electric rail engine at present;

(b) the length of total railway route electrified in the country during each of the last three years and upto December 31, 1996; and

(c) the length of railway route proposed to be electrified during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The comparative cost of running per 1000 Gross Tonne Kilometre of Diesel and Electric traction on Broad Gauge for the year 1994-95 (latest available) is :

(Figs. in Rs)

	Passenger	Freight
Diesel	99.58	65.51
Electric	94.33	52.37

(b) Route Kilometres electrified during the last 3 year as under:

1993-94	505 Kms.
1994-95	473 Kms.
1995-96	609 Kms.

Total route kilometre electrified up to 31st December, 1996 is 13085.

(c) The Ninth Five Year Plan for the railways is under finalisation by the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

Foreign Tourists

*272. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the names of those countries from which the number of tourists have increased;

(b) the names of countries from where tourists visit the country in less number;

(c) whether any special steps have been taken to encourage the tourism with those countries from where tourists visit in less number; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) The tourist arrivals from each of the countries in the descending order of magnitude are given below:

(c) and (d) In view of limited resources available, overseas publicity and promotion is mainly confined to markets with high potential. However, efforts are being made to tap new and emerging markets by relocating some of the field officers of the Department of Tourism.

NATIONALITY	1994	1995	1996*	Precentage 1995/94	Change 1996/95
1	2	3	4	5	6
U.K.	300696	334827	364964	11.4	9.0
Bangladesh	282271	318474	322355	12.8	1.2
U.S.A.	176482	203343	224772	15.2	10.5
Sri Lanka	89009	114157	107722	28.3	-5.6
Germany	85352	89040	99593	4.3	11.9
Japan	63398	76042	95412	19.9	25.5
France	73088	82349	94581	12.7	14.9
Canada	56441	63821	72299	13.1	13.3

1	2	3	4	5	6
Italy	43510	53015	50299	21.8	-5.1
Malaysia	40762	50039	50033	22.8	0.0
Singapore	44157	48632	49719	10.1	2.2
Australia	33142	36150	46931	9.1	29.8
CIS	56387	40665	42643	-27.9	4.9
Netherlands	35094	40147	41941	14.4	4.5
Pakistan	42146	42981	41810	2.0	-2.7
Switzerland	30102	29388	35821	-2.4	21.9
Spain	21436	24411	25506	13.9	4.5
Belgium	13931	18732	22604	34.5	20.7
Sweden	13872	19013	21838	37.1	14.9
U.A.E.	30503	19749	20729	-35.3	5.0
Kenya	14404	17389	19236	20.7	10.6
Israel	129098	14806	189218	22.4	27.8
Oman	14511	17060	17352	17.6	1.7
Saudi Arabia	15524	16252	17271	4.7	6.3
Thailand	16313	14462	16480	-11.3	14.0
Austria	12083	13114	16330	8.5	24.5
Finland	6438	10659	16504	65.6	54.8
Afghanistan	4223	10942	15653	159.1	43.1
Korea (South)	7227	9831	15571	36.0	58.4
Yemen Arab Rep.	11696	16777	14294	43.4	-14.8
Denmark	9418	14128	13128	50.0	-7.1
Bahrain	11166	12343	11716	10.5	-5.1
Iran	14775	12337	11662	-16.5	-5.5
Newzealand	8078	10700	11087	32.5	3.6
Mauritius	10348	11353	9977	9.7	-12.1
Hong Kong	8147	9590	9388	17.7	-2.1
Norway	5105	6803	7805	33.3	14.7
Indonesia	6125	7795	7614	27.3	-2.3
China (Taiwan)	2680	3516	7312	31.2	108.0
Portugal	5366	6679	7251	24.5	8.6
Poland	4492	5470	6121	21.8	11.9
Greece	4345	4872	6090	12.1	25.0
Ireland	3790	5666	5793	49.5	2.2
Philippines	4297	5580	5234	29.9	-6.2
Brazil	3184	4201	4822	31.9	14.8
Egypt	2819	3090	3284	9.6	6.3
Kuwait	6638	3600	2719	-45.8	-24.5
Czechoslovakia	1980	2314	2645	16.9	14.3
Argentina	1823	2072	2613	13.7	26.1
Qatar	3594	3668	2346	2.1	-36.0
Mexico	1615	2142	2157	32.6	0.7
Jordan	2219	3335	2135	50.3	-36.0

1	2	3	4	5	6
Hungary	1496	1548	2038	3.5	31.7
Turkey	1409	1835	1940	30.2	5.7
Yugoslavia	647	1154	1725	78.4	49.5
Fiji	1781	2094	1710	17.6	-18.3
Romania	653	1457	1698	123.1	16.5
Lebanon	1024	1422	1468	38.9	3.2
Syria	2702	1823	1254	-32.5	-31.2
Iraq	540	1359	1184	151.7	-12.9
Bulgaria	405	667	733	64.7	9.9
Luxembourg	447	543	457	21.5	-15.8
Cyprus	348	582	433	67.2	-25.6
Iceland	59	96	112	62.7	16.7
Others	106622	121582	131028	14.0	7.8
Total	1886433	2123683	2287860	12.6	7.7

' Estimated.

[English]

Extraction of Gold from Hutti Gold Mines, Karnataka

*273. SHRI K.C.KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has conducted any survey about the availability of gold deposits in Hutti Gold Mines in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of gold deposits in that area; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to fully extract the gold available in the above gold mines?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has identified 55.13 million tonnes of gold ore in Hutti Block besides 3.014 million tonnes in seven blocks adjoining Hutti Block. In five other blocks low grade ore and impersistent ore zone had been identified.

(c) The Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited is engaged in an expansion and modernisation project to improve the output per man shift (productivity) from 0.20 to 0.65 gms. and thereby achieve reduction in cost of mining and gold production. This will permit it to mine lower grade ore deposits.

[Translation]

Sharp increase in Air Traffic

*274. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR':
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are ware that the sharp increase in air traffic without any infrastructural development has increased the chances of air accidents;

(b) if so, whether the Government have prepared any scheme for infrastructural development to prevent air accidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Development of airport infrastructure and augmentation of communication/navigational aids is a continuous process. To meet the demand of increasing air traffic, the Airports Authority of India has drawn up plans for:

(i) Modernisation of Air Traffic Control System at Delhi/ Bombay airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 423.89 crores. This project will be commissioned by June, 1997.

(ii) Installation of Secondary Surveillance Radars at Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Madras and Guwahati will be completed in 1997.

(iii) Secondary Surveillance Radars have already been commissioned at Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram airports.

[English]

Tourism Industry in J & K

*275. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :